Estimates of Rs. 2,49,855 Crore. The actual collections (provisional) for 2003-04 financial year is Rs. 2,757 Crore (1.1%) more as compared to Budget Estimates.

(c) The main reasons for exceeding the Budget Estimates include general improvement in the market conditions and growth in the GDP, higher Corporation Tax collections, growth in the manufacturing and trading sector, buoyant capital market and improvements in the tax administration.

(d) The steps being taken to enhance revenue collections include widening the tax base, phasing out of exemptions wherever possible, strengthening tax administration, plugging leakage of revenue, recovery of tax arrears through a multi-pronged drive and simplification of tax procedures to improve compliance.

Airbus service between Kolkata and Agartala

*118.SHRIMATILALSARKAR:: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for want of Airbus or Boeing aircrafts in the morning between Kolkata and Agartala, the national newspapers cannot reach the readers in the evening;

(b) whether it is a fact that ATR aircraft plying in the morning at present cannot carry the bundles of papers and cannot withstand the load of baggages and luggages; and

(c) whether an Airbus or a Boeing would be operated between Agartala and Kolkata in the morning very shortly to solve the above problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL); (a) to (c) The matter has been brought to the notice of the government. However, there are 26 flights every week on Kolkata-Agartala sector, which is sufficient to meet the present demand.

Funds for Centrally-sponsored Schemes

†*119. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to provide funds for the Centrally sponsored schemes directly to Panchayats in future; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of such schemes and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government *inter-alia* aims at ensuring that all funds given to States for implementation of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Schemes by Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. It further states that after consultations with States, the Government will consider crediting elected Panchayats with such funds directly. Therefore, there is at present no scheme to provide funds directly to the Panchayats.

Flexible air space management

*120.SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to make air space management more flexible which will lead to ten to fifteen per cent expansion in the Indian air space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, at present, the air space is divided between civil and military operations and if so, the percentage of air space available to military organizations and civilian aircrafts; and

(d) whether the civil aviation and Indian Air Force authorities have discussed air safety measures and if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The flexible use of air space is only to permit civil aircraft to use the airspace exclusively reserved for military purposes for optimum utilization of Indian airspace. It does not lead to expansion of the existing Indian air space.

(c) Yes, Sir. Air space available to military and civil operations is 35% and 65% of the total of the Indian air space respectively.

(d) Discussion with Indian Air Force on air safety measures is a regular ongoing exercise to work out coordination procedures between Indian Air Force and Civil Aviation Authorities.